

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Everett, Reg. No. 51,659 on August 5, 2010.

The Examiner respectfully requests the following:

Independent claim 82 has been replaced with:

82. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause that processor to: receive an inbound message to a recipient user over a electronic communications network from a sender user, wherein the inbound message includes an identifier of the sender user and an identifier of a recipient user; transfer said inbound message to a queue storage; and determine pursuant to security settings alterable by said recipient user, and using said sender identifier and said recipient identifier, one of at least three security states associated with the inbound message, wherein a first security state is indicative of allowing delivery of the inbound message to a recipient user, a second security state is indicative of denying delivery of the inbound message to the recipient user, a third security state is indicative of conditionally allowing delivery of the message to the recipient user, each of the at least three security states

being are associated with the sender identifier and the recipient identifier included in the inbound message, wherein the computer readable medium not being a transitory signal.

### **REASON FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. Examiner finds applicant's arguments presented on 3/31/2010 for patentability for claims 1 and 3 over Hall (US Patent No 5,930,479), Katsikas (WO 01/16695) and Hardt (US Patent Publication No. 20050114453) to be persuasive. The teachings of Hall and Katsikas do not teach nor make obvious applicant's claim limitation element of: "determining by a security module pursuant to security settings alterable by said recipient user" in combination with the other limitations of the claim. Additionally, applicant's 371 national phase date of application PCT/US2003/025067 is August 11, 2003. The effective filing date of Hardt is November 13, 2003. As such applicant had possession of said subject matter prior to the effective filing of Hardt. Claims 2 and 5-30 all depend on independent claim 1 and are therefore allowed. Claims 4 depend on independent claim 3 and is therefore allowed.

2. Examiner finds applicant's arguments presented on 3/31/2010 for patentability for claims 31, 68 and 82 over Hall (US Patent No 5,930,479) and Hardt (US Patent Publication No. 2005/0114453) to be persuasive. The teachings of Hall do not teach nor make obvious applicant's claim limitation element of: "determining by a security module pursuant to security settings alterable by said recipient user" in combination with the other limitations of the claim. Additionally, applicant's 371 national phase date of

application PCT/US2003/025067 is August 11, 2003. The effective filing date of Hardt is November 13, 2003. As such applicant had possession of said subject matter prior to the effective filing of Hardt. Claims 32-67 depend on independent claim 31 and are therefore allowed. Claims 69-81 depend on independent claim 68 and are therefore allowed. Claims 83-95 depend on independent claim 82 and are therefore allowed.

3. The Examiner notes on August 5, 2010, an updated prior art search was conducted. The search yielded prior art reference Gallant (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0165969) and prior art reference Yairi (US Patent Publication No. 20020152272). The Examiner officially enters both references as prior art of record, however neither of the references have been relied upon in a formal rejection. The Examiner contends Gallant discloses using aliases and profiles associated with a particular sender of an email. The profiles will dictate the handling of the senders email. The Examiner contends Yairi discloses using aliases and providing the capability to dynamically create and delete aliases associated with a message sender. However, the Examiner respectfully submits that neither Gallant nor Yairi individually or in combination teaches or makes obvious applicant's security settings alterable by a recipient user; the security settings being part of a security state assigned to a proxy identifier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Accordingly, claims 1-95 are allowed.

### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)270-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2431

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